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**Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)**

## Note verbale dated 17 April 2008 from the Permanent Mission of Dominica to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of Dominica to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Chairman of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004), and has the honour to refer to the latter's note verbale dated 25 October 2006, as well as the note verbale dated 2 November 2007, concerning the submission by States of their reports on measures taken to implement the provisions of the resolution.

The Permanent Mission has the further honour to transmit herewith the national report of the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 of the said resolution (see annex).

The Permanent Mission would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

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## Annex to the note verbale dated 17 April 2008 from the Permanent Mission of Dominica to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Committee

## Report of the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica pursuant to Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)

The Commonwealth of Dominica has the pleasure to report to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) of its actions relative to the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons particularly as they relate to the implementation of the resolution.

The Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica does not possess and has no intention of possessing weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Furthermore, the Commonwealth of Dominica confirms that it does not provide any form of support to-non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery.

The Commonwealth of Dominica is firmly committed to international efforts for arms control and disarmament, and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. This is reflected through its ratification and implementation of various treaties and conventions at the international and regional levels concerning the subject matter. These include:

- The Biological Weapons Convention
- The Chemical Weapons Convention
- The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
- The Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
- The Treaty of Tlatelolco and a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency
- Outer Space Treaty

Although Dominica is not yet a State party to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Government has declared its intention to ratify that treaty.

Dominica has ratified a number of international conventions against terrorism consistent with its obligations to Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and issues related to resolution 1540 (2004). They are as follows:

- Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft
- Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation
- Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents
- International Convention against the Taking of Hostages
- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material

- Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation
- Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation
- Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf
- International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings
- International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism

The Commonwealth of Dominica enacted in 2003 Act. No. 3 of 2003, Suppression of Financing of Terrorism, the purpose of which, inter alia, is to criminalize the financing of terrorist activities, and to provide detection, prevention, prosecution, conviction and punishment of terrorist activities; this Act therefore gives effect to the aforementioned international conventions related to counter-terrorism. A related piece of legislation, the Money Laundering Prevention Act, No. 20 of 2000, also seeks to criminalize and prevent the financing of terrorist activities.

The Noxious and Dangerous Substances (Control) Act 1981, enacted by the House of Assembly as Act. No. 4 of 1982, supports the resolution's requirements for measures to secure storage with respect to biological, chemical and nuclear weapons and other related materials. The Environmental and Health Services Act (No. 8 of 1997) provides the legal framework for the resolution's requirements for the licensing and registration of facilities and personnel handling regarding biological, chemical and nuclear weapons and related materials. Under this Act, the Chief Environmental Health Officer is empowered to issue certificates of approval for facilities, processes, and use of liquids, gas, radiation, and other materials that may cause harm or injury to the general public.

The Pesticides Control Act of 1974, which was amended in 1987, may contribute to filling the requirements for the accounting, securing and protecting measures associated with chemical weapons and related materials. The Dominica Bureau of Standards of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is the National Authority in accordance with the obligations of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Regarding nuclear weapons and related materials, Dominica concluded a Safeguards Agreement, and a small quantities protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency (INFCIRC/513), which entered into force on 3 May 1996. The Safeguards Agreement satisfies the requirement of article 13 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

There is a legislative framework governing the control over border crossings, the export and import and other transfers of biological weapons and related materials. The relevant pieces of legislation are:

- The Customs (Control and Management Act), No. 16 of 1995
- The Plant Protection and Quarantine Act, No. 10 of 1986
- Plant Protection (Importation) Regulations
- Animals Act
- Environmental Health Services Act, No. 8 of 1997

The following governmental authorities, the Customs and Excise Division of the Ministry of Finance and Planning, the Dominica Maritime Administration (MARAD), the Plant Protection Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Environmental Health Division of the Ministry of Health, have been vested with the mandate to implement the provisions of the respective pieces of legislation as they relate to border control requirements regarding biological weapons and related materials. Additionally, with respect to importation of arms and ammunition, licensing authorizations must be secured from the Commissioner of Police before importation can be effected.

In 2006, the Dominica's House of Assembly passed the Dominica Air and Sea Ports Authority act 2006 (Act. No. 8 of 2006), which provides for coordinated and integrated systems of airports, seaports and port services, and the creation of Dominica Air and Sea Ports Authority (DASPA) (Order No. 37 of 2006). DASPA has already made significant investment towards bringing the ports of Dominica into full compliance with the International Ship and Port Facility (ISPS Code), and has pledged additional investments to meet the obligations of the various counter-terrorism conventions.

Consistent with paragraph 8 (d) of resolution 1540 (2004) and its relationship with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the Commonwealth of Dominica underscores its strong advocacy for multilateral cooperation in the areas of non-proliferation and of promoting international cooperation for peaceful purposes. In keeping with this commitment to multilateral cooperation, Dominican officials have participated in regional meetings to promote the object, purpose and implementation of the Convention.

The Commonwealth of Dominica, despite the challenge of capacity, is committed to realization of the objectives contained in resolution 1540 (2004), as well as of other multilateral initiatives on the question of international peace and security, and disarmament.